

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAVITAL STATISTICS, 1948 - (PRELIMINARY).

The following preliminary particulars for 1948 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1947 in parentheses.

BIRTHS - 15,870 (16,317). The number of births registered had fallen irregularly from 12,904 in 1914 to 11,492 in 1927, from which year there was an almost continuous fall to 8,270 in 1935, but from 1935 there had been an increase each year to 16,317 in 1947. The total for 1947 showed an increase of 8,047 on 1935 and of 3,413 on 1914 which had the record number for earlier years. The registrations for 1948 fell by 547 from 16,317 to 15,870. The 1947 rate per 1,000 of mean population was 25.25 and was the highest since 1917. The 1948 rate fell to 24.12

When it is noted that there were 59,287 births during the 5 years 1920-24, 43,061 during 1932-36 and 75,344 during 1944-48, it will be realised that problems will arise in future in such circumstances as numbers of children attending school and numbers leaving to commence employment, etc.

SEXES OF BIRTH - The number of boys compared with 100 girls born during each of the last few years have been:- 1943 - 106.17; 1944 - 104.38; 1945 - 104.41, 1946 - 105.18, 1947 - 105.71 and 1948 - 106.35.

ADOPTIONS - The number of adoptions has increased rapidly. Ten years ago the number was around 100, increasing to 455 in 1946 and 403 in 1947. The 1948 figures are not yet available.

LEGITIMATIONS numbered 28 (21).

DEATHS - 6,748 (6,215) were registered during the year an increase of 533 on the previous year. This is the highest number registered for any one year, but the rate of 10.26 had been exceeded in several previous years. Commencing from 1921 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933 when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. From that year there had been an irregular rise to the rate of 11.02 in 1942 since when the rates have been 10.57; 9.66; 9.64; 10.17; 9.62 and 10.26. At this date it is not possible to give details of the number of deaths from the various causes for 1948.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - The deaths of children under 1 year totalled 471 an increase of 75 on the total of 396 for 1947. This total is nearly as high as the record number of 482 in 1942, but the rate is considerably lower than in that year. The infantile death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births. During the last 70 years there has been a remarkable drop in the infantile death rate, - from a rate of 150 per 1,000 births in the period 1870 - 1880 to a rate of less than 30 in recent years. Usually New Zealand has the world's lowest infantile death rate with South Australia often second and twice lowest namely in 1938 and 1947. The 1947 rate for this State was 24.27 and New Zealand 24.98. The 1948 rate was 29.68. The rates during recent years have been less than half the rates of 25 years previously.

Deaths of infants from principal causes during 1948 (1947 in parentheses) were - Diarrhoea etc. 64 (15). Congenital Malformations 65 (84). Premature Births 139 (129). Congenital Debility 5 (9). Injury at Birth 53 (51). Other Diseases peculiar to early infancy 42 (41). Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1 (3) Meningitis 5 (-). Whooping Cough 5 (-), Diphtheria 2 (-). Measles 4 (-), Convulsions 1 (2), Bronchitis 3 (2), Pneumonia 34 (30) Hernia etc. 4 (-). Diseases of the Ear etc. 6 (5) and all other causes 40 (25).

There were 123 (131) deaths of children under 1 day, 182 (161) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 166 (104) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Although the figures vary from year to year, the greatest improvement compared with earlier years has been in respect to deaths of children from 1 month to 1 year old. Many of the 65 (15) infant deaths from diarrhoea were aged one month and over and contributed to the increased deaths in this age group for 1948. A number of the children whose deaths

were classed to diarrhoea also had some form of pneumonia as a contributory cause. During 1948 there were 5 infant deaths from whooping cough, 4 from measles, 5 from meningitis and 4 from hernia, whereas there were no deaths from any of these diseases in 1947, and all except one of the 1948 deaths were of age 1 month and over.

STILL BIRTHS. These are not included in either Births or Deaths, and numbered 387 in 1947, the total for 1948 not yet being available.

MARRIAGES. 6,704 (6,688), an increase of 36. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 541 (579). The number of marriages had been just over 4,500 in 1926 and 1927, but fell to 3,069 in the depression year of 1931 from which the number increased yearly and reached 6,950 in 1940. The figures from 1941 to 1948 have been uniformly high though varying, the successive figures being 6,855; 8,129; 6,263; 6,019; 5,321; 6,700, 6,668 and 6,704. A rather surprising feature is that the mean marriage age has varied by only decimal points since first calculated in 1908. In 1931 when there were only 3,069 marriages the mean age for males was 28.67 and for females 25.14 and yet in 1942 when there were 8,129 marriages the mean was 28.65 and for females 25.63. For 1947 the male mean was 28.82 and female 25.66. 1948 means are not yet available.

Christmas and Easter Marriages. It had been the custom for large numbers of marriages to be celebrated at Christmas and Easter. There was the record number for any one day of 245 on the Saturday before Christmas in 1941 and 525 during the 8 day period Saturday to Saturday at Christmas time that year. Also, there were 392 during Easter week in 1942. Since then there have not been such large numbers at Christmas and Easter, although there were 149 on the Saturday before Christmas in 1948 and 243 for the 8 day period and 229 during Easter week.

SUMMARY RETURN - The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		Deaths			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)	No	Rate (b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.16	6,843	11.17	6,235	10.17	406	34.57
1945-48	15,508	24.17	6,348	9.89	6,368	9.92	422	27.21
Year								
1944	13,311	21.40	6,019	9.68	5,984	9.62	387	29.07
1945	14,033	22.31	5,321	8.46	6,049	9.62	394	28.08
1946	15,813	24.85	6,700	10.53	6,461	10.15	428	27.07
1947	16,317	25.25	6,668	10.32	6,215	9.62	396	24.27
1948	15,870	24.12	6,704	10.19	6,748	10.26	471	29.68

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population (b) Per 1,000 Births.

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,  
ADELAIDE.

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